



News for Immediate Release
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Jones Tract Pumping Passes Three-Quarter Mark

SACRAMENTO – Department of Water Resources officials report that the Jones Tract floodwater pumpout project has passed the three-quarter mark and continues on schedule for completion in October.

As of noon today, the lake level had been reduced by about nine feet. That translates to around 105,000 acre feet of the approximately 140,000 acre feet of water that covered the 12,000 acre island. The 19-square mile tract 10 miles west of Stockton was inundated June 3 when a 400 foot section of the Middle River levee gave way. The cause of the failure remains unknown.

When pumpout operations began July 12, the average depth of the water covering the rich Delta farmland was estimated at 12 feet. It's now down to about three feet, but DWR engineers say removing the remaining floodwater will be the most difficult part of the operation. The pumps are now working harder to lift water up to a river level that's increasingly higher than the water level on the island.

Other factors expected to slow the dewatering include: moving the pump inlets to deeper water; longer delays for cleaning and maintenance as more suspended material clogs the pumps; and, declining evaporation rates as solar energy and temperatures drop.

Meanwhile, at least one farmer has returned to reclaim his land and begin the rebuilding process. Crop loss from the flood has been estimated at \$10 million. Overall costs relating to the disaster are placed at \$90 million.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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